REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application. The Office Action, however, has tentatively rejected all claims 1-20. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration for at least the following reasons.

The Office Action tentatively rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Iino (US patent 5,291,184). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection made by the Examiner for at least the reasons discussed below.

Claim 1 recites:

> 1. A liquid crystal display device comprising: a light-emitting source emitting light; and a reflector further comprising a base and a plurality of sidewalls extending from the base, wherein each of the sidewalls further comprises a multi-angle surface, in conjunction with the base, reflecting the emitted light toward a diffusion plate diffusing the reflected light.

Among other features, claim 1 defines a light-emitting source and a reflector. The light emitting source emits light. The reflector comprises a base and a plurality of sidewalls extending from the base. Further, each of the sidewalls comprises a multi-angle surface. The multi-angle surface is in conjunction with the base and reflects the emitted light toward a diffusion plate diffusing the reflected light. Simply stated, these features are not disclosed in Iino.

Likewise, independent claim 11 defines:

> 11. A liquid crystal display device comprising: a light-emitting source emitting light; a multi-angle reflector for reflecting the emitted light; and a diffusion plate for diffusing the reflected light.

Among other features, the device of claim 11 comprises a light-emitting source, a multi-angle reflector, and a diffusion plate. The light-emitting source emits light. **The multi-angle reflector** reflects the emitted light and the diffusion plate diffuses the reflected light.

Iino discloses a display apparatus. The apparatus comprises a backlight 10, a reflection plate 20, and a dispersion plate 9. The backlight 10 is disposed behind the dispersion plate 9 while being supported by the reflection plate 20. In contrast to the features of independent claims 1 and 11, Iino discloses a display apparatus with a conventional reflection plate 20 as described in prior art of the present application. Significantly, Iino does not disclose the reflector with sidewalls which comprise multi-angle surface as defined in independent claim 1. Likewise, Iino also does not disclose the multi-angle reflector as disclosed in independent claim 11. For at least reason, independent claims 1 and 11 define over the cited Iino reference.

For at least the reason that Iino does not disclose all the limitations of claims 1 and 11, these claims patently define over Iino. As claims 2-10 and 12-20 depend from claims 1 and 11, respectively, these claims define over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

Claims 3, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Iino in view of Ogawa et al.(US 4,803,399). Claims 4, 10, 15, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Iino et al. Claims 7,8,17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as allegedly unpatentable over Iino in view of Urlaub et al. (US 5,926,333). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Among other reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action failed to identify a proper motivation or suggestion for combining the various references. For example, in combining Ogawa with Iino, the Office Action stated only that the combination would have been obvious in order "to obtain high luminance and efficiency." This alleged motivation is clearly improper in view of well-established Federal Circuit precedent.

It is well-settled law that in order to properly support an obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103, there must have been some teaching in the prior art to suggest to one skilled in the art

that the claimed invention would have been obvious. W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock Thomas, Inc., 721 F.2d 1540, 1551 (Fed. Cir. 1983). More significantly,

> "The consistent criteria for determination of obviousness is whether the prior art would have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art that this [invention] should be carried out and would have a reasonable likelihood of success, viewed in light of the prior art. ..." Both the suggestion and the expectation of success must be founded in the prior art, not in the applicant's disclosure... In determining whether such a suggestion can fairly be gleaned from the prior art, the full field of the invention must be considered; for the person of ordinary skill in the art is charged with knowledge of the entire body of technological literature, including that which might lead away from the claimed invention."

(*Emphasis added.*) In re Dow Chemical Company, 837 F.2d 469, 473 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

In this regard, Applicant note that there must not only be a suggestion to combine the functional or operational aspects of the combined references, but that the Federal Circuit also requires the prior art to suggest both the combination of elements and the structure resulting from the combination. Stiftung v. Renishaw PLC, 945 Fed.2d 1173 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Therefore, in order to sustain an obviousness rejection based upon a combination of any two or more prior art references, the prior art must properly suggest the desirability of combining the particular elements to derive a reflector of a backlight assembly, as claimed by the Applicants.

When an obviousness determination is based on multiple prior art references, there must be a showing of some "teaching, suggestion, or reason" to combine the references. Gambro Lundia AB v. Baxter Healthcare Corp., 110 F.3d 1573, 1579, 42 USPQ2d 1378, 1383 (Fed. Cir. 1997) (also noting that the "absence of such a suggestion to combine is dispositive in an obviousness determination").

Evidence of a suggestion, teaching, or motivation to combine prior art references may flow, inter alia, from the references themselves, the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, or from the nature of the problem to be solved. See In re Dembiczak, 175 F.3d 994, 1000, 50

USPQ2d 1614, 1617 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Although a reference need not expressly teach that the disclosure contained therein should be combined with another, the showing of combinability, in whatever form, must nevertheless be "clear and particular." Dembiczak, 175 F.3d at 999, 50 USPQ2d at 1617.

If there was no motivation or suggestion to combine selective teachings from multiple prior art references, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have viewed the present invention as obvious. See In re Dance, 160 F.3d 1339, 1343, 48 USPQ2d 1635, 1637 (Fed. Cir. 1998); Gambro Lundia AB, 110 F.3d at 1579, 42 USPQ2d at 1383 ("The absence of such a suggestion to combine is dispositive in an obviousness determination.").

Significantly, where there is no apparent disadvantage present in a particular prior art reference, then generally there can be no motivation to combine the teaching of another reference with the particular prior art reference. Winner Int'l Royalty Corp. v. Wang, No 98-1553 (Fed. Cir. January 27, 2000).

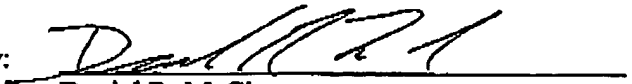
For at least the additional reason that the Office Action failed to identify proper motivations or suggestions for combining the various references to properly support the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, those rejections should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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